

Message Text

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21/13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01 /147 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7778

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 16751

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJ: THAI FONMIN ON AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES IN THAILAND

REF. A. BANGKOK 16705

B. BANGKOK 16737

C. USINFO 242001 OCT 73

1. LAST NIGHT ON SOCIAL OCCASION I HAD OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN QUESTION OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES IN THAILAND WHICH WAS SUBJECT OF HIS DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESS OCTOBER 25 AS REPORTED REFTELS (A) AND (B).

2. CHARUNPHAN INVITED ME TO EXPRESS MY REACTION TO HIS DISCUSSION WITH THE PRESS BUT FIRST EMPHASIZED THAT HE HAD OPENED HIS DISCUSSION WITH REFERENCE TO STEADY WITHDRAWAL UNTIL FORCES ARE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN BECAUSE OF NEW ATMOSPHERE AND ANTICIPATED STUDENT PRESSURES. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE FELT THAT WHAT FOLLOWED, HOWEVER, MADE IT CLEAR THAT THAI GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT MOVE RAPIDLY AND ACTIONS WOULD BE RELATED TO THE NECESSITIES OF THE SITUATION.

3. I INDICATED MY UNDERSTANDING OF CHARUNPHAN'S MOTIVATION
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AND ACNOWLEDGED THAT IF AT SOME FUTURE DATE, PROBABLY

REMOTE, WHEN IT BECOMES CLEAR THAT SECURITY IN THIS REGION NO LONGER REQUIRES ANY OUTSIDE HELP, FORCES COULD BE ENTIRELY WITHDRAWN. ON THE OTHER HAND, HIS REFERENCE TO PROCEEDING STEP-BY-STEP AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE NECESSITIES OF THE SITUATION WAS THE OPERATIVE FORMULA FOR THE PRESENT IN OUR VIW AND CHARUNPHAN AGREED. IN THIS CONNECTION I HANDED HIM A COPY OF REFERENCE (C) AND CALLED ATTENTION IN PARTICULAR TO THE FINAL SENTENCE; CHARUNPHAN WAS ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH THIS AND FOUND IT QUITE ACCEPTABLE.

4. WITH REGARD TO FURTHER MEETINGS ON THE SUBJECT I INDICATED THAT HIS REFERENCE TO CARRYING ON NEGOTIATIONS FOR WITHDRAWALS STEP-BY-STEP WAS AGREEABLE TO US AND I REMINDED HIM OF

MY EARLIER CONVERSATION ON THIS SUBJECT REPORTED PARA 4 REFERENCE (B).

5. IN SUM, BELIEVE CHARUNPHAN'S PUBLIC STANCE ON THIS MATTER IS

IN LINE WITH OVERALL POSTURE OF GOVERNMENT, STRESSING CONTINUITY OVER CHAGE (SEE PARA 1 EMBTEL 16744); AND I DETECT NO INTENTION TO DEPART SUBSTANTIALLY FROM PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION RE US PRESENCE IN THAILAND EVEN THOUGH STYLE MY DIFFER SOMEWHAT.
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